

I WOULD LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD TO KNOW.....

---

[oversize]

DS

124.42

L534

L48

2017

.....HOW, AND WHY MY DEAR PARENTS DIED.

---

ONE DAY BEFORE MY SISTER AND I LEFT  
BERLIN FOR ENGLAND, SECOND OF MAY 1939.









MAX & DORA LIEBENAU  
BERLIN 21. AUGUST 1921.



My parents, Max Liebenau and Dora Liebenau nee Simke married on the 21. August 1921.

During the First World War my father had served four years on the Western Front in the German Army as a first aider and stretcher bearer.

Both my parents belonged to the Jewish religion, my father being a stronger believer than my mother. They were well educated, my father working as a representative for a large firm that dealt in textiles. My mother was employed as a stenographer. When my maternal grandmother retired from her small haberdashery shop, my parents took over the business.

On the 23. December 1923 my sister Helga, Carola was born, and I followed on the 17. March 1926. I was given the name Karlheinz, both my sister and I having been named after my maternal grandfather Carl Simke.

We lived in a comfortable apartment in the Berlin district of Charlottenburg, facing the street from the first floor.

My sister and I enjoyed a happy childhood, and we went to the same elementary school in the Sybelstrasse. Boys and girls were taught in different parts of the building.

When Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, the whole world for us Jews was turned upside down. Our parents had to give up their shop a few years later, and the non-Jewish pupils at school no longer spoke to us.







We suddenly became different people, and we were completely isolated from everything.

Those who taught at universities, or held other higher positions in life, lost their jobs. In time Jewish children were no longer allowed to attend the schools they were in, and had to be taught in Jewish schools. Some blocks of apartments were hastily converted into classrooms, and my sister and I managed to get a placing in the Klopstock Strasse in the district of Tiergarten.

My father was more out of work than in, and we finally had to move into a cheaper apartment in the Niebuhrstrasse at the rear on the fourth floor.

All Jews were slowly reduced to third-class citizens, a citizenship that we were stripped of in 1935, making us stateless.

It was my mother's 50th. birthday on the 9. November 1938, and in the night from the 9. to the 10. November most of our synagogues were torched, and Jewish shops were smashed up and looted. Many Jewish men were arrested and taken to concentration-camps in Dachau and Buchenwald. The pogrom became known as "The night of broken glass" (Kristallnacht). Jews were no longer allowed to visit certain cinemas or theatres. Barred from all restaurants, and park benches were painted in blue and yellow. The yellow ones for Jews only. A few Jewish shops were kept open where Jews





could purchase the goods that they required. All the non-Jewish shops were barred to Jews.

In March 1939 we had to queue for hours in the cold to be issued with identity-cards. They were made from a thin linen material, with a large "J" for Jew on the front, with our fingerprints inside, and they had to be signed with a middle name, Israel for males, and Sara for females, and the biggest insult was to make us pay a certain amount of money for the privilege.

I was able to celebrate my Bar Mitzvah in one of the three remaining synagogues. They couldn't torch those, because they were built next to other blocks of flats.

My sister and I were fortunate in finding places on what became known as a Kindertransport to England, and to have someone to guarantee for us. We left Berlin on the 3. May 1939, after having our photographs taken on the previous day.

In between jobs my father managed to learn the baking trade, and his first job was with a Jewish baker by the name of Grienbaum. Friends of ours told my father that with his new skills that there shouldn't be any problems for my father to find work in England. The only trouble was, that the borders of most countries were closed to Jews wanting to leave Germany.

Jews in general were slowly worn down by persecution and restrictions. Deprived of their livelihoods, having





been forced to hand in their valuables, and finishing in poverty.

A lot of praying went on for deliverance from the evil that befell us, but people in other countries just shut their eyes and ears.

My sister and I received 74 letters and cards, including Red Cross cards, that I translated into English many years later. "Letters from a terrible past, 1939/41." When the Second World War started, my parents sent their mail via a relative in Amsterdam, and when the Netherlands were overrun by the Germans, mail came via family in the U.S.A. We received the last post from our parents some time in October 1941. Our parents' letters were full of love and advice, but they never contained words of despair or hopelessness about their own situation.

My father managed to find work with a non-Jewish baker who asked my father to leave again after a short while. "What would his customers say if they found out that he was employing a Jew?"

On the 27. November 1941 my parents were taken to the Grunewald Station in Berlin, and together with 1.050 other Jewish people, that included whole families, put into cattle-trucks, and I assume that there was standing room only. There were no windows to let in light or fresh air. No food or water, or toilet facilities.



The torturous journey lasted three days and nights.

I imagine that when the doors of the trucks opened, the ice-cold air from the outside, and the stench from the inside of the trucks must have been overwhelming.

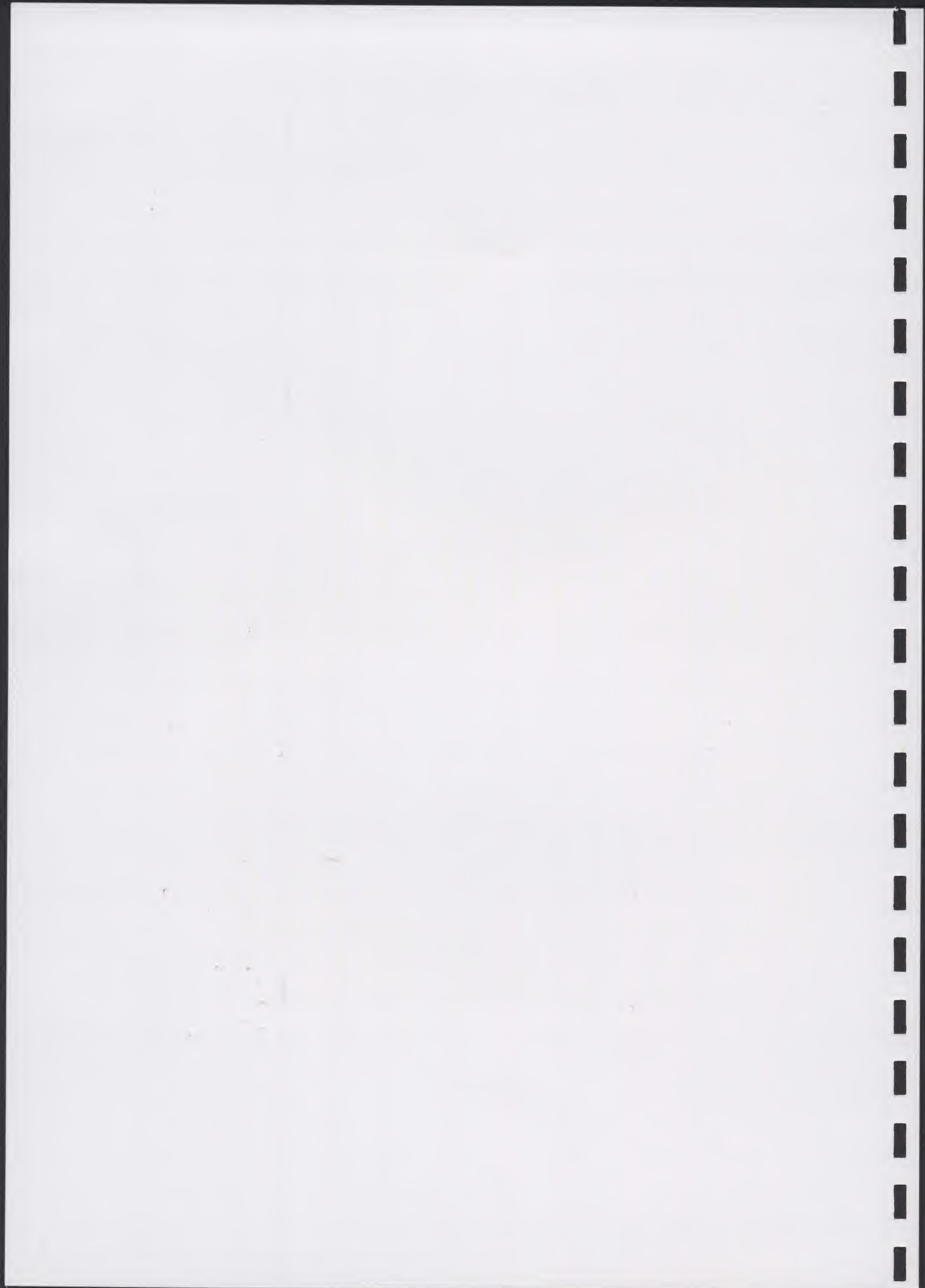
The train had stopped just outside Riga in Latvia, and on the 30. November 1941 everyone was herded into the Rumbuli Forest and shot.

The end had come after having to endure nearly eight years of persecution, being deprived of their German citizenship, forced into poverty, and being despised and degraded in every way. My parents had lived in fear from day to day, not knowing what the next day would bring. My parents had been decent, honest, and caring people, who didn't wish anyone any harm.

My sister and I couldn't mourn the death of our parents, because we didn't know what had happened to them. It meant two and a half years of uncertainty, but we had hoped that our parents had been spared.

The first official report about the fate of our parents came from the Red Cross when I was stationed with the British Army in Berlin (1946/48).

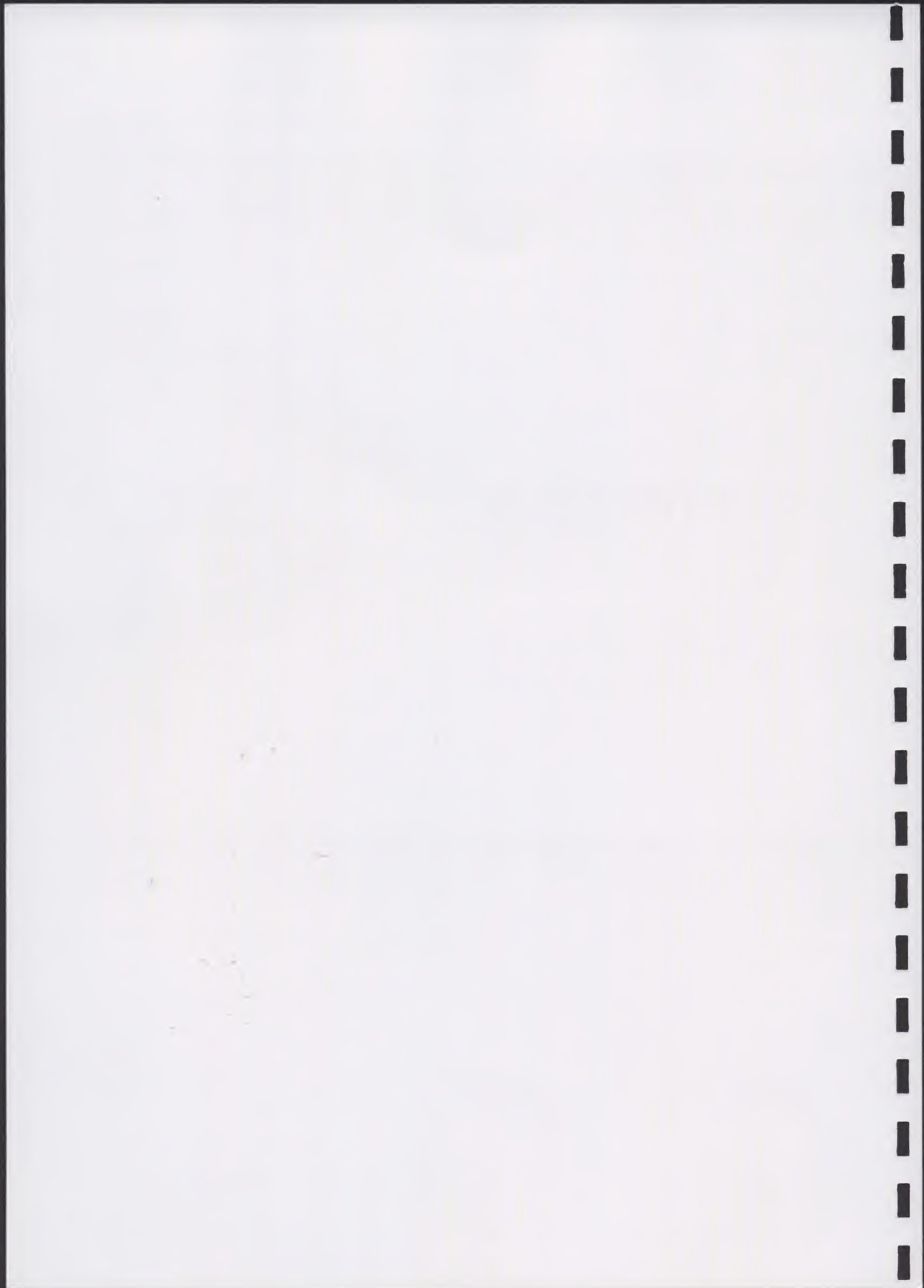






THE MEMORIAL IN THE FOREST OF RUMBULI.







KATTKITZKI ANNA GEB SACHS KATTKITZKI ISIDOR KATZ MARY GEB APFELBAUM KATZKY ILSE KATZKY JENNY GEB JACHMANN KATZKY LISELOTTE KEMPNER GEORG  
 KESTENBAUM GERDA KESTENBAUM STELLA KIRSCHBERG ADELINE GEB JACOB KIRSCHBERG HARRY KLAPHOLZ EDMUND KLAPHOLZ ELLY GEB LAUDON KLAPHOLZ PAUL  
 KLAUSNER REIZLA GEB GLUCKSMANN KLEIN HELENE GEB WOLFF KLEIN MARTHA KLEINSCHMIDT GERTRUD GEB RABAU KLONOWER JULIE KLUGERMANN GIESELA  
 KNIETSCH SERAPHINE GEB LACHMANN KNOPF EMMA GEB OESTREICH KOHN DORIS KOHN EISE KOHN EISE GEB LINDEMANN KOHN GERDA KOHN JOHANNA GEB NEUMANN  
 KOHN MARGOT KOHN MAX KOHORN KATHARINA GEB WITKOWSKI KOHORN OSCAR KOPALT BETTY KOPSKI DA KORACH MARGARETE GEB ARZT KORNBERG MAX  
 KORNGOLD ROSA GEB SCHWARZ KOSTER HEDWIG GEB GLASER KOTTLARZIG MARTIN KOTTOW GEORG KOTTOW SARA F GEB SALM KRAHL JUSTINA GEB CHAWES KRAHL RUDOLF  
 KRAHE HEDWIG KRAUSE BETTY GEB SACHS KRAUSE HELGA KRAUTMANN SARA KRAYN FANNY GEB PARISER KREISEL MOSES KRON ELSEBETH KRONER CHARLOTTE  
 KRONER ELISABETH KRONER MARGARETHE GEB KRONER KRONHEIM JETTEL GEB STERNBERG KROTOCZYNSKI GERTRUD GEB SILBERSTEIN KRZEPIE LAJA KUBATZKY HEDWIG  
 KUECHLER WALLY GEB OSCHINSKY KUECHLER WERNER KURSCHNER HANS KURZWEIG FLORA GEB DEHN KUSSELEWSKI LAURA GEB KAISER LACHMANN GERTRUD  
 LANDSBERG BERTHA GEB NATHAN LANGE ADOLF LANGE ERNST LANGE JOHANNA GEB BRAUER LANGE LUISE LANGE MARGARETE GEB SINGER LANGE MAX LANGSTADT HEDWIG  
 LAPPE HENNY GEB TAUSK LAPPE HENRY LASERSTEIN ROSA GEB SEIDENBERG LASERSTEIN WALTER LATTER MINNA GEB LEWINNEK LAUDON CACILIE GEB MARKUS  
 LAUFER NAFTALI LAZARUS ERICH LAZARUS FRIEDA LAZARUS GERTRUD GEB SEEMANN LEBENSTEIN FRIEDRICH LECKER RUTH GEB FINN LEGIEN PAULA GEB GRUNWALD  
 LEHMANN KATHE GEB SAULSOHN LEHMANN MAX LEIBHOLZ GEORG LEIBHOLZ LIEDIA GEB PERL LEIBNER FEIGE LEICHTENTRITT ANNA LEIPZIGER META LEISER HEDCHEN  
 LEISERSOHN GERT LEMBERG HENRIETTE LERNER REIZLA LESHEIM ANNA GEB SIMONSOHN LESHEIM BRUNO LESKE HELENE GEB JAROSCH LESKE PAUL LESSER BENNO  
 LESSER BRUNO LESSER ERICH LESSER HORST WERNER LESSER LOUIS LESSER MARGARETE GEB JARUSLAWSKY LESSER MARTIN LESSER MINNA GEB SALINGER  
 LESSER PAUL LEUBUSCHER HENRIETTE GEB BOLDER LEUBUSCHER HORST LEVIN FELIX LEVIN HERBERT LEVIN USE GEB HIRSCH LEVIN INGEBORG LEVINSKY ELISE  
 LEVINSOHN GERTRUD LEVISSON LEOPOLD LEVY BENNO LEVY BERTHOLD LEVY EDDY LEVY ELSE GEB POLKE LEVY ERIKA LEVY GISELA LEVY GUSTAV LEVY HANS  
 LEVY HEDWIG LEVY JOHANNA LEVY LOUISE LEVY MARTHA GEB LEWIN LEVY META GEB LOSZCZYNSKI LEVY SELMA GEB ASCH LEVY SELMA GEB SPITZER  
 LEWIN ALICE GEB SIEGHEIM LEWIN DORA GEB FABIAN LEWIN ELSA LEWIN GERDA LEWIN HENRY LEWIN INGOLF LEWIN JUTTA LEWIN MARGARETE GEB MARCUSE  
 LEWIN PAUL LEWIN PAULA LEWIN WALTER LEWINSKAITE JUDESA LEWINSKI BETTY LEWINSKI JACQUES LEWINSKI META GEB JACOBSTHAL LEWINSKY LEO LEWINSKY SIEGBERT  
 LEWINSOHN JULIANE LEWINSOHN MARGARETE GEB WOLFF LEWKOWITZ FRIEDA GEB BIBO LEWKOWITZ JULIAN LEWKOWITZ LEO LEWKOWITZ SALOMON LEWY OTTO  
 LICHTENSTEIN AMALIE LICHTENSTEIN ARTHUR LICHTENSTEIN JENNY GEB GÖTZ LICHTENSTEIN MARGARETE GEB RIESE LICHTENSTEIN SIEGBERT LIEBENAU DORA GEB SIMKE  
 LIEBENAU MAX LIEBENTHAL IDA LIEBERMANN PEPI LILIENTHAL MARTA LINCER ALFRED LINCER KURT LINCER (LINZER) MOSES LINCER (LINZER) SURE GEB GUNZ  
 LINDEMANN ISIDOR LINZ GERDA LINZ MORITZ LINZ ROSA GEB GOLDSTEIN LIPNOWSKI FRITZ MORITZ LIPPMANN HUGO LIPSCHUTZ ISIDOR LIPSKER BETTY GEB PORITZKY  
 LOEB ARTHUR LOEB HANNA GEB KIRSTEIN LOEB NORBERT LOEFFLER BRIGITTE LOEFFLER HARRY LOEFFLER PAULA GEB LEWIN LOEWE ELISABETH LOEWENSTEIN ALEX  
 LOEWENSTEIN EMMA GEB STRIEM LOEWENSTEIN HARRY LOEWENSTEIN HELGA LOEWENSTEIN HORST LOEWENSTEIN LOTTI GEB GOTTFURCHT LOEWENSTEIN RAHEL CLARA  
 LOEWENSTEIN RAHEL CLARA LOEWENSTEIN RITA LOEWENTHAL ERNA GEB LINDENSTRAUSS LOEWENTHAL ERNA GEB BASS LOEWENTHAL FELIX LOEWENTHAL GERTRUD

# Statistik Berlin, 27.11.1941 / Статистика по Берлину (27.11.1941) Berlines statistika (27.11.1941) / Berlin statistics (27.11.1941)

Deportierte / депортированные / deportētie / deportees				1.053	
Geburtsdatum unbekannt / дата рождения неизвестна / dzimšanas dali nezināmi / date of birth unknown				1	
Überlebende / выжившие / izdzīvojušie / survivors				0	
Altersgruppenübersicht / возрастные группы / vecuma grupas / age groups				Altersgruppe bis 15 Jahre / в возрасте до 15 лет / vecumā līdz 15 gadiem / the age till 15	
Altersgr. / возраст группы / vecuma grupas / age groups	Gesamt / всего / kopā / total	Weiblich / женщин / sievietes / female	Männlich / мужчин / vīrieši / male	Gesamt / всего / kopā / total	89
0 bis 10 / 0 до 10 / 0 līdz 10 / 0 till 10	38	18	20	Weiblich / женщин / sievietes / female	45
11 bis 20 / 11 до 20 / 11 līdz 20 / 11 till 20	97	48	49	Männlich / мужчин / vīrieši / male	44
21 bis 30 / 21 до 30 / 21 līdz 30 / 21 till 30	57	32	25		
31 bis 40 / 31 до 40 / 31 līdz 40 / 31 till 40	97	65	32	Durchschnittsalter / средний возраст / vidējā vecuma / middle age	
41 bis 50 / 41 до 50 / 41 līdz 50 / 41 till 50	233	168	65	Gesamt / всего / kopā / total	46,0 Jahre / 46,0 лет / 46,0 gadi / 46,0 years
51 bis 60 / 51 до 60 / 51 līdz 60 / 51 till 60	340	223	117	Weiblich / женщин / sievietes / female	47,0 Jahre / 47,0 лет / 47,0 gadi / 47,0 years
61 bis 70 / 61 до 70 / 61 līdz 70 / 61 till 70	186	115	71	Männlich / мужчин / vīrieši / male	44,2 Jahre / 44,2 лет / 44,2 gadi / 44,2 years
71 bis 80 / 71 до 80 / 71 līdz 80 / 71 till 80	4	2	2		
über 80 / старше 80 / vecāki par 80 / older than 80	0	0	0		
Summe / всего / pavisam / total	1.052	671	381		

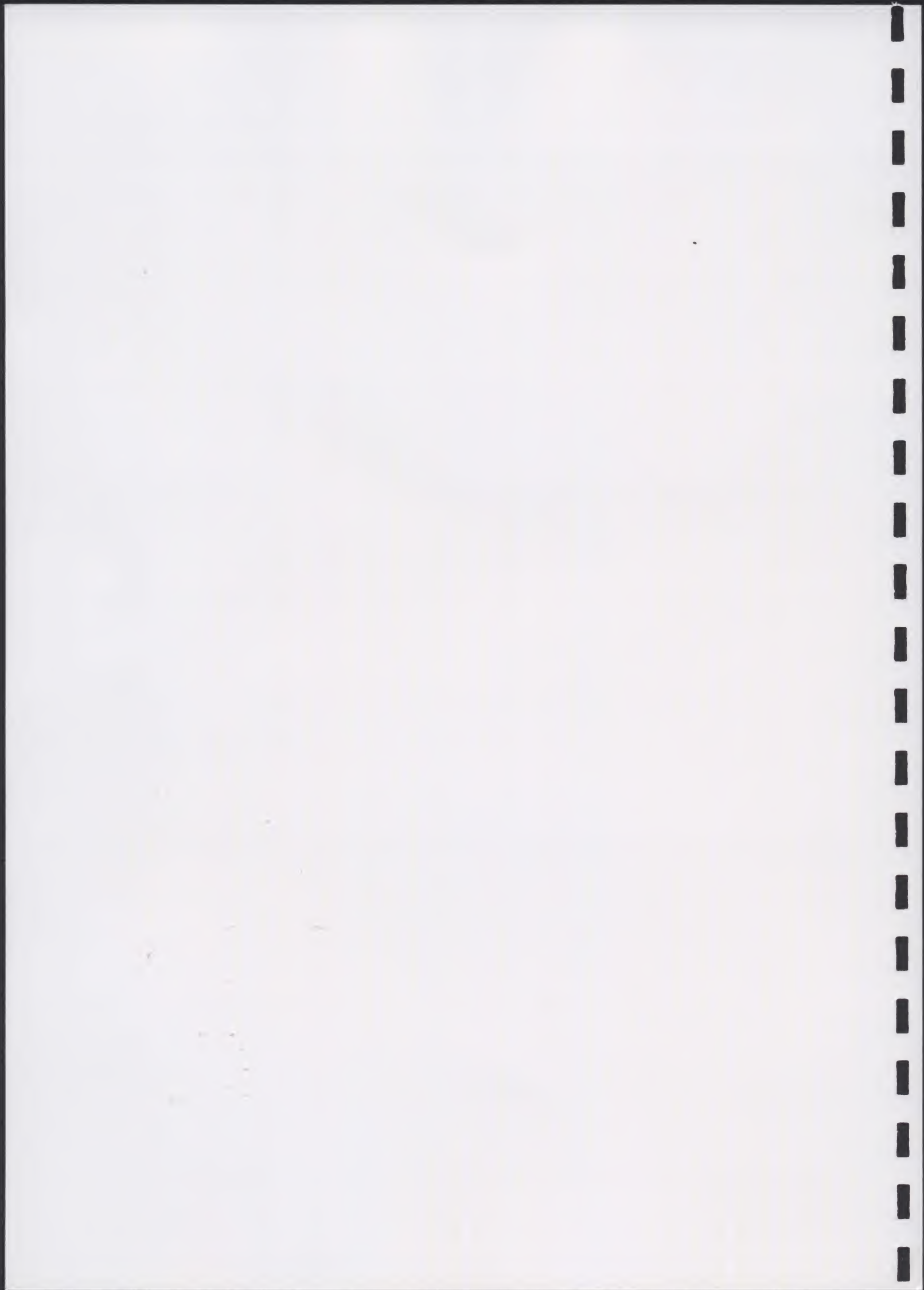




PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



The focus of war crimes prosecutions has turned to the acts of the Einsatzgruppen, mobile Nazi death squads such as this in one in Ukraine in 1941













## A P P E N D I X

The mass-graves in the Forest of Rumbuli didn't make any headlines around the world, a world at war.

I must admit that the atrocities in Rumbuli, some of many in the various countries in Europe, couldn't have had any meaning to most people, if not all people. But I would like to make notes of the following.

As far as I know, what happened in the Forest of Rumbuli has not been mentioned in the press or any other media.

I am now in my 92nd. year, and I am hoping that somehow the people of the world will get to know about the Forest in Rumbuli, if only to acknowledge what all those poor people had to suffer.

There weren't thousands of people laying flowers onto the mass-graves, or lighting candles. There weren't any protests. No gun-salutes or bugle calls.

All together the Germans managed to murder six million Jews in as many years, a third of the worlds' Jewish population. One and a half million of those murdered were children.

Ten million Germans were members of the Nazi Party, and many more millions were sympathisers of the regime. They were all directly or indirectly responsible for the mass-murder of Jews. The Germans who lived before



before and during the Second World War should have been ashamed of themselves. The Germans who gave the world Beethoven and Schiller should have heard alarm-bells ringing, and not follow a man who was mentally deranged and a sadist. In the end the majority of Germans delighted in getting rid of the Jews, and committed the most hideous crime in human history.

My parents lie in a mass-grave, and are not remembered by those who should have helped them to survive. My parents had no weapons to defend themselves with, and very few people offered their help, putting their own lives at risk. The majority of the people in the world just stood by to see us suffer.

There are many places in Europe where Jews have been butchered by the Germans, but one never hears or reads reports about them.

Jews never beheaded anyone, or flown passenger planes full of people into skyscrapers, or driven lorries into crowds of people.

Michael Portillo, who presents the programme, "Railway Journeys in Europe" on television, visited Riga in Latvia in one of his shows. A lovely looking city, with coffee-houses, and cheerful looking inhabitants. At no time was there a mention of the Forest in Rumbuli, and its mass-graves. Is there anyone living in Riga aware of the graves in the forest?





In compiling this small booklet, I am hoping that all those who are buried in mass-graves all over Europe will at last be thought about, and not as forgotten as they are now.

CHARLES LEIGH  
(FORMERLY, KARLHEINZ LIEBENAU)

BROADSTAIRS

29. AUGUST 2017





## NAMES TO REMEMBER

The names of members of my family, and the names of friends, who were murdered by the Germans between the years 1939-45. Unfortunately there are many members of my family, friends, former teachers, and school-friends, whose names I no longer remember. They all died, because their only crime was that they were Jewish.

### FAMILY NAMES

Liebenau	Max	b.21.08.1882	d.Riga(Rumbuli)?	27.11.1941
Liebenau	Dora	nee Simke b.09.11.1888	d.Riga(Rumbuli)?	27.11.1941
Liebenau	Recha	Single b.24.11.1879	d.Auschwitz	Sept. 1942
Hirschfeld	Minna	nee Loewe b.26.01.1894	d.Riga	1942
Salinger	Max	b.25.11.1882	d.Theresienstadt	20.07.1942
Salinger	Fanny	nee Salinger b.26.06.1876	d.Theresienstadt	20.07.1942
Salinger	Joachim	b.02.08.1913	d.Riga(Ghetto)	15.08.1942
Salinger	Ursula	nee Salinger b.01.08.1919	d.Riga(Ghetto)	15.08.1942
Salinger	Berl	b.19.02.1942	d.Riga(Ghetto)	15.08.1942
Salinger	Lothar	b. 1919	d.Ploetzensee	04.03.1943
	Member of Resistance Gruppe Baum(Executed by the Germans)			
Samolewitz	Georg	b.01.07.1870	d.Theresienstadt	30.08.1942
Samolewitz	Rosalie	nee Jacobis b.16.07.1869	d.Minsk	1942
Simke	Leopold	b.16.09.1874	d.Sachenhausen	28.05.1942
Simke	Kaete	Single b.06.04.1873	d.Minsk	1942
Simke	Selma	Single b.	d.Concentration Camp	
Simke	Siegfried	b.08.03.1876	d.Lodz	27.10.1941
Kuraner	Regina	nee Simke b.09.12.1876	d.Sobibor	21.05.1943
Loewenstein	Bernhard	b.29.12.1875	d.Trawniki	02.04.1942
Loewenstein	Martha	nee Simke b.02.05.1877	d.Trawniki	02.04.1942
Loewenstein	Gertrud	nee Simke b.17.01.1867	d.Riga(Ghetto)	25.01.1942
Pelz	Ida	nee Plotke b.	d.Concentration Camp	
Mansbacher	Frieda	nee Stein b.24.01.1871	d.Sobibor	July 1943
Mansbacher	Juliane	nee Falck b.05.11.1897	d.Auschwitz	20.10.1944
Mansbacher	Mali	Single b.24.09.1906	d.Auschwitz	23.09.1943
Moses	Julius	b.21.01.1883	d.Auschwitz	March 1943
Moses	Frieda	nee Hirsch b.18.10.1893	d.Auschwitz	March 1943
Hirschfeld	Max	b.13.03.1889	d.At Sea	02.07.1940
	Interned in Great Britain - Drowned when ship was torpedoed on the way to Canada.			

### Friends of my Parents

Herr Fuchs, Herr Fraenkel, Herr Weinberg, Frl.Rosenthal, Frl.Weiss, Frau Schulz.  
All died in the Holocaust.

#### Schoolfriends

Neubauer	Joachim	b.02.07.1926	d. Lodz	04.05.1942
Neubauer	Denny(Father of Joachim)	b.04.08.1875	d. Lodz	08.04.1942
Neubauer	Margot(Mother of " )	b.30.04.1891	d. Lodz	19.04.1942
Joelsohn	Edmund	b.27.04.1926	d.Auschwitz	17.05.1943

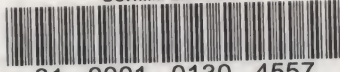
Philippson	Arthur	b.11.04.1885	d.Berlin	04.04.1944
	Died of a heart attack doing forced labour in Berlin.			
	His son Hans went to school with me.			

#### Schoolteachers

Herr Georg Lewin,	Frl. Dr. Hurwitz	d.Holocaust
-------------------	------------------	-------------

(Revised list, typed by Charles Leigh(Karlheinz Liebenau) 30.October 2008  
Broadstairs.

USHMM LIBRARY



01 0001 0130 4557



"The Autobiography of a Jewish Refugee", "Letters from a Terrible Past, 1939-41", "Letters from Wally and Werner Kaufmann". Copies of which are at the following museums and archives.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place,  
SW, Washington, D.C.,  
U.S.A. 20024

Ref: 1998.A.0156  
DS135.G5L535

The Leo Baeck Institute,  
15 West 16th. Street,  
New York,  
N.Y.,  
U.S.A. 10011

Reference: AR10746  
ME1323  
AR10746

Yad Vashem, (Archive Department).  
The Holocaust Martyr's and Heroe's Remembrance Authority,  
P.O.Box 3477,  
Jerusalem 91034,  
Israel

Reference: // 4316266

Jüdisches Museum Berlin,  
Lindenstrasse 9-14,  
10969 Berlin,  
Germany

Reference: 2000/174  
R-2000/174/0  
R-2010/1/0  
2011/59/0

Institute of Contemporary History and Wiener Library, Ref: 1368/2/8  
1368/2/9  
29 Russell Square London WC1B 5DP Phone: 02076367247 NB242/NB172  
Bloomsbury

The Jewish Museum,  
The Museum of Jewish Life,  
129 Albert Street,  
Off Parkway,  
Camden Town,  
London NW1 7NB

Ref: 2154 CHARLES LEIGH

Tel: 0207 2847384

University of Sussex at Brighton,  
Centre for German-Jewish Studies,  
Reference Library,  
Falmer,  
Brighton,  
Sussex BN1 9QN

Imperial War Museum London,  
Lambeth Road,  
London SE1 6HZ  
Ref: Documents 23375-Papers of C.LEIGH  
Enquiries: 02074165342

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE 1939 - 2009

Museum of St.Albans  
Hatfield Road  
ST.ALBANS, Herts. AL1 3RR

Ref: 2014.5002.

Telephone: 01727 819340



